

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 3, 2009, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cook (U.S. Patent No. 4,637,396). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As set forth above, independent claim 1 recites a catheter assembly comprising, *inter alia*, an outer catheter and an inner catheter that can be inserted into said outer catheter, said outer catheter being comprised an outer catheter body, and an outer catheter hub attached to a proximal end of said outer catheter body, said inner catheter being comprised a hard proximal part, and an inner catheter hub formed at a proximal end of the proximal part. As amended above, claim 1 further recites that said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub are adapted to be disengaged from each other so that said inner catheter is removable from said outer catheter and said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub are adapted to be engaged with each other so that said two catheters do not rotate and move relative to each other. Still further, when said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub engage each other, at least a part of said inner catheter protrudes from a distal end of said outer catheter, with the distance between the distal end of said outer catheter and a distal end of said inner catheter being no more than 10 mm.

As explained more fully in the specification, when the two hubs are engaged with each other the two catheters are fixed to each other. Thus, the operator only needs to manipulate a single catheter to insert the catheter assembly comprising the

inner and outer catheters. (See, Paragraph [0111] of published application).

However, once the catheter assembly has reached the target site, the two hubs are disengaged and the inner catheter can be withdrawn while leaving the outer catheter in place in the blood vessel. (See, Paragraphs [0112] and [0125] of the published application).

The primary reference relied upon by the Examiner, Cook, is directed to a balloon catheter 10 including a catheter tube 11 and a flexible inner member 13. A balloon 12 is disposed coaxially about the inner member 13. Further, the proximal end of the balloon 12 is fixed and sealed to the distal end of the catheter tube 11 and the distal end of the balloon 12 is fixed and sealed to the distal end of the inner member 13. See, Claim 1 of Cook. Thus, in contrast to the claimed invention, the inner member 13 and the catheter tube 11 are fixed to one another by the balloon 12 and the inner member is not removable from said outer catheter. As explained more fully in Cook at Col. 3, lines 51-58, due to the particular fabric of the balloon, the catheter 10 is constructed such that the inner member 13 and the catheter tube 11 are fixed against relative longitudinal displacement.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Cook does not disclose that "said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub are adapted to be disengaged from each other so that said inner catheter is removable from said outer catheter" as recited in claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicants regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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